

**NOAA FISHERIES ANNOUNCES HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES
ADVISORY PANEL MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2003**

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) will hold a meeting of the Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Advisory Panel (HMS AP) on September 30, 2003, in Silver Spring, MD. The intent of this meeting is to consider the alternatives presented in draft Amendment 1 to the Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Tunas, Swordfish, and Sharks (HMS FMP). The Proposed Rule and notice of availability of draft Amendment 1 to the HMS FMP were published in the Federal Register on August 1, 2003 (68 FR 45196). The 60-day public comment period ends on September 30, 2003. Since the alternatives presented in draft Amendment 1 apply only to management measures for Atlantic sharks, the discussion will be limited to Atlantic shark management.

The HMS AP meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn, 8777 Georgia Ave. (Rt. 97), Silver Spring, MD 20910, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 30, 2003. Advisory Panel meetings are open to the public.

Materials related to the HMS AP meeting will be available after September 1, 2003. Please contact Carol Douglas or Othel Freeman, Highly Migratory Species Management Division, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910, 301-713-2347, for meeting logistics or materials.

For further information or for copies of the proposed rule and draft Amendment 1 to the HMS FMP, please contact Karyl Brewster-Geisz, 301-713-2347 or see the HMS web page at <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hmspg.html>.

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Othel Freeman at least 7 days prior to the meeting.

Bruce Morehead for
John H. Dunnigan
Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries

August 21, 2003
Dated